Attorney Docket No. 9310.28CT

In re: Goudsmit et al. Serial No.: 09/760,085 Filed: January 12, 2001

38. (canceled) A method for separating single stranded nucleic acid from double stranded nucleic acid, comprising the steps of:

contacting a mixture comprising both single stranded and double stranded nucleic acid with a first liquid comprising a chaotropic agent and a nucleic acid binding solid phase, wherein the first liquid has a composition such that the double stranded nucleic acid binds to the solid phase;

separating the solid phase from a supernatant containing the single stranded nucleic acid; and

contacting the supernatant with a second liquid comprising a second nucleic acid binding solid phase, in the presence of a chaotropic agent, a chelating agent and divalent positive ions, wherein the second liquid has a composition such that the resulting mixture of supernatant and second liquid allows for binding of the single stranded nucleic acid to the second solid phase.

- 39. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 3816, wherein the concentration of the divalent positive ions is the same as the concentration of the chelating agent.
- 40. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 3816, wherein the chelating agent is EDTA and the ions are Mg<sup>2+</sup> ions.
- 41. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 3816, wherein the chaotropic agent is a guanidinium salt.
- 42. (canceled) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the guanidinium salt is guanidinium isothiocyanate.
- 43. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 42, wherein the second liquid has the constitution of a buffer prepared by dissolving about 120g guanidinium isothiocyanate in about 100ml 0.35M TRIS HCI (pH 6.4) and adding about 22ml 0.2 M

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